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1969/12/03

Classification

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Date: 3 DEC 1969

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Contact with Communist Chineso REF: My Memcon with President September 9 (RODIS)

interpreter this evening after Tugoslav reception and told interpreter that President NIXON wished to have serious concrete talks with Chinese. Interpreter said only that he would report this statement. I believe our conversation was not rpt not observed by other diplomats or by journalists Mowever, possibility exists that story may get out. Quidance requested miether we should discreetly stimulate press TEID EUNHARY.

The Chinese Charge Lei Yang and his interpreter luame unknown) were present this evening, December 3, at Yegoslav fashion show at Palace of Culture. Immediately after

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Foreign Service of the Delici States of America

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ef building and was able to have brief conversation with interpreter on steps of Palace of Culture. 780 Simons was with me. I spoke in Polish.

3. As we were homestantistics, I introduced myself to interpreter as American Ambassador and said I wished to greet the Charge. Interpreter replied: "I don't know.

You must wait." Meanwhile, Charge, who had looked back and undoubtedly recognized me, kept en going. I left building with interpreter and, standing on steps, made fellowing statement to him: "I was recently in Washington and saw President Mixon. He told me he would like to have serious, concrete talks with Chinese." Interpreter, who listened attentively but without expression, said in reply:

"Good. I will report that." Interpreter then walked on to Join Charge who was headed toward his car.

4. Chinese and I left Palace shead of others attending Tugoslav show. No other diplomats were outside during our

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Approving Officer

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conversation and I believe to were unobserved. The far as I know, no journalists were present at Tugoslav show.

- 5. Possibility exists, however, that my talk with Chinese was seen by someone and that story will spread rapidly and will reach foreign journalists. In event we are queried by correspondents who have learned of contact with Chinese, we would propose to follow following guidance.
- 6. BEGIN PRESS GUIDANCE. (Unnecessary words omnitted) Ambassador spoke briefly evening of December 3 with interpreter accompanying Chinese Charge d'Affaires ad interim, Mr.

Lei Yang. This action is consistent with interest expressed by President Nixon in having good relations with all countries.

QUESTICH: Was this at Ambassador's initiative?

ANSWER: Yes.

QUESTION: Was this first contact between/Ambassador and

Chinese?

QUESTICA: Thy did Ambassador do this; any significance in

timing; ign't such action unusual?

ANSWER: No comment; refer to statement.

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CESTIGE: Was Embassador acting under Instructions?

ANSWEZ: No comment; refer to statement,

QUESTICE: That was content of conversation; That was

reaction of Charge?

AMSWER: Can't comment.

QUESTION: Will there be more contacts of this kind?

AHSWER: Can't speculate.

QUESTICA: Does this mean formal US-Chinese talks will be

resumed in Warsaw in near future; does it have any bearing

on such talks?

ANSWER: The US has frequently expressed the hope that

US-Chinese talks could resume in Warsaw or elsewhere. This

continues to be our position. We have nothing new on Ho further comment should be offered. Chinese attitude. J. EMP PRESS GUIDANCE.

7. If no press inquiries develop, it would be easy for us to stimulate such inquiries indirectly and discreetly. We would then respond to questions along W lines of above guidance, smended as Department might feel appropriate. Request guidance whether we should stimulate inquiries. My own feeling is that approach to Chinese and impression it

0.31.14.

Approviou Officer

Concurrence:

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will make on them of our seriousness of purpose will be sore effective If we retrain from stimulating questions from proces.

will probably be present /at reception evening December 4 on occasion of mational day

of Finland. However, I do not propose to/grammak Charge

sain and I would doubt that he would have had opportunity

to receive reaction from Peking to my approach by that time.

STORESET.